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# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

## WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1913.

WHOLE NO. 136

## AUGUST IMMIGRATION.

Washington, Nov. 8.—The record of Southern Italian Immigration to this country is indeed marvelous. While it is true that many of these Southern Italians return to their native land after either short or long periods in this country, yet numberless thousands remain here. For many months the Southern Italians have outstripped every other race in point of numbers landing at American ports. The record of the last ten years ended June 30, 1912, of Southern Italian immigration shows that there have landed at American ports 1,824,293. In order to show the full Italian immigration there must be added 354,398 Northern Italians to the record of the last ten years, which makes a grand total of Italian Immigration during the period stated of 2,178,691. For the month of August, 1913, Southern Italians in point of numbers outstripped all other nationalities again, 27,554 being admitted. Next in point of numbers for August comes the Hebrews, with 17,069, closely followed by the Polish, with 15,667. Germans, 7,890; Crotians and Slovenians, 6,174; English, 5,221; Russians, 5,086; Ruthenians, 4,438; Northern Italians, 4,208; Lithuanians, 3,081; Slovaks, 2,971; Scandinavians, 2,894; Magyars, 2,748; Irish, 2,545; the balance being scattered between twenty-five other nationalities, usually recorded by the Bureau of Immigration, while a small number is listed under "Other Peoples." Designated according to occupations declared by those landing during August, 30,989 were farm laborers, 23,345 laborers, and 12,857 as servants. Of those declaring themselves as skilled workers there were 3,456 Tailors, 1,918 Carpenters and Joiners; Clerks and Accountants, 1,603; Seamstresses and Dressmakers, 2,247. Other trades are represented by a much smaller number. The distribution of these immigrants forms also another interesting portion of this story, New York being the recipient of the largest number, 27,476 having gone to that state, while Pennsylvania received the second largest number, 20,664. Then comes Illinois with 11,824; Ohio, 7,820; Massachusetts, 7,564; New Jersey, 6,218; Michigan, 5,956; Connecticut, 3,735; the remaining number being scattered to the various states in the union. There were debarred during the month under consideration 2,479, the cause excluding the greatest number being that the immigrants so excluded were likely to become public charges. Emigrant aliens leaving this country for August reached 23,242. The total immigration for the month was 126,180, showing an increase over the immigration of August, 1912, of 43,803.

## SCALE TO ARBITRATION.

Springfield, Mo., Nov. 8.—The local Typographical Union entered into negotiations with the publishers of the daily newspapers for an increase in wages. Conferences revealed the fact that it was impossible to reach a solution. As is well known, the International Typographical Union is in agreement with the National Newspaper Publishers' Association to arbitrate the differences of all members of that Association where mutual agreements cannot be arrived at. The regular procedure, however, is first for local arbitration, and, therefore, that plan will be followed in this instance. The Printers are asking for an increase of $3 per week, the present scale being $22 per week for day work and $24.50 for night work. Practically all of the local unions in the city have received a substantial wage increase in the past year. Only a few weeks ago thousands of employes of the 'Frisco shops received a raise.

## FIRST POLICY ISSUED.

Madison, Wis., Nov. 8.—The first policies in a state life insurance fund in America have just been issued by the Insurance Department of Wisconsin. Former Speaker Charles A. Ingram, who introduced the bill in the 1911 session to create state insurance, received the first policy. Applications have been received from several states, but under the laws policies may be issued only to residents of Wisconsin. No policy is issued for a larger amount than $1,000, but when the number of policy holders reach 1,000 the maximum policy issued will be for $2,000, and when the number reaches 2,000 the maximum policy will be for $3,000, the highest amount authorized. The existing governmental machinery will be used in the administration of the law without the creation of additional offices, and no paid agents are to be employed.

## PENSION CITY EMPLOYEES.

Montreal, Canada, Nov. 8.—The Board of Control and the City Council have passed the Civic Employees' Pension Law. It is provided that an employee who has been in the service of the city for a period of ten years or more and becomes unable to work by reason of a chronic or incurable disease or a permanent infirmity contracted outside of the discharge of his municipal duties, he shall be superannuated and entitled to an annual pension equal to one-third his annual salary. If he shall have been employed for twenty years the annual pension is to equal one-half of the annual salary. The minimum pension to be paid is $300 per year, and the maximum $3,000.

## ANOTHER SCHEME.

San Francisco, Nov. 8.—The United Railroads, one of the local traction systems that has for years fought organized labor, now proposes to establish co-operative stores so that the employees of the traction system may have an opportunity to add more profit to the traction company. These schemes are only entered into for the purpose of lulling the employees into a feeling of security, and for the further purpose of seeing to it that the employees pay a Shylock tribute to the company aside from giving their service at a rate which is below that paid for any other class of labor.

## TO FILE AWARD.

Washington, Nov. 8.—The controversy between the conductors and trainmen and the Eastern railroads, which came very close to a strike, is about to be finally terminated. It will be remembered that objection were made to the settlement of the dispute under the Erdman Arbitration Act, and that a new arbitration law was enacted by Congress. The entire controversy was then submitted to arbitration. Upon the submission of all evidence the board proceeded to weigh it, and on Monday, November 10, the award will be filed.

## FACTIONS AGREE.

New York, Nov. 8.—The two factions of the Sheet Metal Workers in this city have agreed to settle their differences. All details have been worked out and a new union is to be formed and a full set of officers elected. It is confidently believed that after the new corps of officers is installed in office the organization will make up for the progress which has been long delayed by the absence heretofore of complete unanimity.

## HOW STRANGE.

San Diego, Cal., Nov. 8.—The Labor Leader, the local labor paper here, in its last issue, commented on an editorial clipped from the Bakersfield Californian. While the comment was to the point, the editorial of the Bakersfield Californian is of much interest as indicating that in at least some portions of the country the press is beginning to realize the reasons why laboring people organize labor unions. The editorial, in part, follows: "Raisin growers at Fresno are to receive 4 cents a pound for their product this year, and a paper of Fresno congratulates the community because organization has resulted in securing a living price for the output of the vineyards. * * Equality is the same thing true in the field of labor. * * * Union men know that their wages depend not upon the tariff but on two things, supply and demand and organization, the latter probably being the most potent factor. The unions of this nation have forced reluctant employers to give them fairer wages and better hours, and the tariff is not a factor. It never was a factor. And neither was it the case of the raisin growers. The vineyardists of Fresno, like the wage earners of the country, have a fairly effective organization now, and they are, therefore, better able to say what the price of raisins shall be, just as wage earners are in a position strong enough to say what compensation they must have for their labor."

## FOR PUBLIC WELFARE.

Harrisburgh, Pa., Nov. 8.—As a result of the Industrial Welfare and Efficiency Conference held here, in which representatives of the Federal and a dozen state governments participated, steps will be taken by the Pennsylvania authorities to bring about a series of meetings in which uniformity in records and effort for correction of conditions will be discussed. It is proposed to institute round table meetings of chiefs of the industrial or labor departments or commissions of the various states in this part of the country in order to find out what each is doing, and especially to devise a general form of statistical information so that conditions that are unfavorable may be ascertained and concerted action agreed upon for correction. In this way all industries will be reviewed and welfare and efficiency work can be prosecuted.

## WANT NEW LABOR TEMPLE.

Winnipeg, Nov. 8.—This city has a Labor Temple, but the growth of the movement has made it necessary that preparations be made for the erection of another building which will be adequate for present day needs and the needs of the future. The ground floor space of the Winnipeg Labor Temple has been leased to a mercantile firm for a number of years, but owing to the pressing demand for more room when the lease expired it was determined to remodel the first floor so that it would be available for the needs of the unions. Extensive alterations were made, but the relief secured thereby has proved only temporary, the building still being inadequate in size and equipment to meet the requirements of organized labor of Winnipeg. This fact not only shows a commendable growth, but indicates in a measure the cohesive influence that a Labor Temple has on the movement of any city where one has been erected.

## UNION ELECTRIC SCHOOL.

Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 8.—The large local union of Electrical Workers in this city has inaugurated an innovation that is being received with genuine satisfaction by the membership. An educational committee, composed of the most skilled members, was appointed several weeks ago to teach some of the technical and more intricate phases of the business to those who desire the information. The first meetings were held in the union rooms, but when the nature of the work became known to the membership the attendance increased to such an extent that a hall will have to be secured to accommodate those who are anxious to take advantage of the opportunity presented. The school holds a session once a week, and all members of the organization are eligible and entitled to instruction.

## VICTORY IN SIGHT.

Indianapolis, Nov. 8.—According to the Labor Bulletin the Moving Picture Operators have practically won their long fight against the theaters, a strike having been inaugurated on Labor Day. A joint conference has been held between the representatives of the Picture Operators' Union and the Exhibitors' Organization and an agreement reached, which will probably result in a settlement. A few controversial questions remain to be settled, but it is asserted this will be accomplished without friction. The new scale provides for better conditions than have ever been obtained before in this city and is considered a great victory for the operators.

## LA FOLLETTE, THE FIGHTER.

Washington, Nov. 8.—In the last issue of La Follette's Weekly the leading editorial, under the caption of "A Call for Help," is devoted to urging all friends of the Seamen's Bill, which has passed the Senate, to exercise themselves in behalf of securing its passage through the House. The article will be printed in full in the News Letter within the coming week or two. It gives a succinct idea of the provisions of the measure and also of the interests that are opposing its passage in the House, as well, of course, as having opposed its passage through the Senate.

## ENFORCING 54-HOUR LAW.

Houston, Nov. 8.—For the alleged violation of the fifty-four-hour law relating to women employes in Texas the keeper of a restaurant has been taken into custody by the authorities. A complaint was sworn out by one of the employes, declaring that the proprietor had caused her to work in the capacity of cashier for seventy-six hours during the week previous. The District Attorney announces that it is his purpose to enforce the new statute speedily and that all violators may expect prosecution.

## UNREST AMONG TRAINMEN.

Chicago, Nov. 8.—There is much unrest among the various railroad organizations employed by Western lines. Many thousands of men are practically of one mind, that a substantial increase in wages should be granted by the railroad companies. Some of the organizations are demanding an eight-hour day, and there is a general sentiment prevailing favoring a shorter workday for all railroad employes.

## PAPERCUTTERS ON STRIKE.

Chicago, No. 8.—Two hundred members of the Blank Book Forwarders and Paper Cutters' Union, employed by forty printing firms, are on strike for an increase in wages from $19.50 to $22.50.

## TRACTION EMPLOYES EXEMPTED.

Austin, Tex., Nov. 8.—The state industrial accident board has held that street railway companies do not come within the purview of the Texas Workmen's Compensation Act; that they are exempt under the provisions, which provide that common carriers are not subject to the new law, thus making all steam and street railways exempt. The board further construed the new law to exempt ranches because an exemption is made of farm laborers. There are hundreds of ranches in Texas which employ more than five workmen, and some of the ranchmen wanted to come under the law, but the board says the law does not include them. Another ruling is as follows: "Where an employer, corporation, or otherwise, operates a number of plants of a like industry and these plants are entirely disconnected as to their work or their employes, and there is no interchange of employment between the plants, then it is optional with such employer to insure all the said plants or any one of them. This rule, however, does not apply to a contractor carrying on more than one contract at the same time."

## AT THEIR OLD GAME.

Washington, Nov. 8.—Ex-Gov. Brown, of Georgia, in his last message to the State Legislature, made an attractive bid to the opponents of organized labor by delivering himself of sundry opinions with reference to unions and their affiliates. No doubt, according to the Ex-Governor's idea, he gave the unions a "good trimming" and consigned them to a zone of activity not unlike that obtaining near the equator. This was a delicious morsel for the active agents of the National Association of Manufacturers, and now pamphlets containing this denunciation are being widely circulated by the discredited Manufacturers' Association. The circulation of this sort of literature shows the desperate straits into which the Manufacturers Association has been plunged.

## LINDSAY VINDICATED.

Denver, Nov. 8.—After six weeks of incessant searching for proofs and many sessions given over to questioning of witnesses, the committee appointed by the Taxpayers' Association to probe the record of Judge Lindsay, of the Juvenile Court, has formulated and signed a report which is a complete vindication for the Judge. Since the Judge published his famous book based on the doings of venal political characters in Colorado, he has been the object of intermittent attacks from sources in some instances that did not appear on the surface. Through all of these secret and open attacks the Judge has been able to clearly demonstrate to the public that his work as Judge of the Juvenile Court has not only been in accordance with the law, but has been of vast benefit to society as a whole. The sociological work that he has and is performing has been the means of interesting a large number of other cities in adopting the policy of Judge Lindsay in dealing with juvenile wrongdoers.

## WANT STATE-MINED COAL.

Denver, Colo., Nov. 8.—A conference of representatives of organized labor was recently held for the purpose of initiating a bill to be submitted to a referendum vote, providing that the State take over its coal lands and operate its own mines for the benefit of all the people. There are over 20,000 acres of coal lands in Colorado belonging to the State, the profits of which go to the public school fund. It is believed that if the people are given an opportunity to vote upon a measure of this character, it will be adopted by an overwhelming majority. Much interest in being taken in the movement, which bids fair to deal the unfair operators a hard blow. This is one result of the present strike in the coal fields brought on by the arbitrary attitude of the coal operators.

## OBSERVE MITCHELL DAY.

Hazleton, Pa., Nov. 8.—Hardly a wheel turned on October 29 in the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania. The miners celebrated Mitchell Day in honor of the anniversary of the successful termination of the strike of 1900, the first conducted in the hard coal belt under the leadership of John Mitchell, then President of the United Mine Workers of America. In proclamations issued from the union headquarters from the three anthracite districts all miners were urged to remain idle on Mitchell Day, except those whose services were necessary for the operation of pumps and other necessary machinery.

## AKRON CARPENTERS.

Akron, Ohio, Nov. 8.—The Carpenters District Council has decided to inaugurate a change in conditions and wages, to be approached gradually. It has been determined that the eight hour day shall prevail beginning December 1, next. No increase in wages is asked for the period of time between December 1, 1913, and April 1, 1914. On the first day of April, 1914, a 5-cent increase will be asked for by the District Council, thereby establishing the scale in the District of $3.60 for an eight hour day.

## BAR GIRLS UNDER 21.

Philadelphia, Nov. 8.—On November 1, a new law went into effect which forbids employment of women under 21 by theatrical companies. The widespread effect of the law was not fully comprehended until it was examined by the local theater managers, when they discovered that women under twenty-one years of age are prohibited from working after 9 o'clock at night. The only exception contained in the law is in the case of telephone operators, who may work all night if they have reached the age of eighteen.

## CONSIDER ARBITRATION BILL.

Seattle, Nov. 8.—The Railway Department of the American Federation of Labor in annual convention here, consumed considerable time in discussing the Newlands Arbitration Bill. The convention had under consideration the asking of the convention of the American Federation of Labor to assist in obtaining an extension of the provisions of the bill to include shopmen.

## PLASTERERS ORGANIZED.

Alliance, Ohio, Nov. 8.—The Plasterers of this city have formed a local union, every member of that craft working in this city being on the charter roll. No demands on employers will be made during the current year.

## M'MANIGAL GETS OUT.

Los Angeles, Nov. 8.—McManigal, the self-confessed criminal, has to all intents and purposes been given his liberty. He has been turned loose, but all officials are reticent with reference to the occurrence.

## LIKE TO HEAR THIS.

Galesburg, Ill., Nov. 8.—The editors of labor papers are in great measure those men who are devoted to the organized labor movement from deep convictions. It is also a well-known fact that so far as financial remuneration is concerned the labor paper is not a field productive of very great financial success. This has been the history, but, as the movement has expanded and the field broadened, a greater degree of success has been attained than in the past. It is gratifying, therefore, to reproduce an item recently contained in the Galesburg (Ill.) Labor News, which says: "The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Labor News Company was held in the office of the company, with all directors present, except one. Reports of the Manager and Auditors were read, showing the affairs of the company to be in good shape, and a 6 per cent dividend on the capital stock was ordered paid."

## WHAT'S THE GAME?

Washington, Nov. 8.—Within the last week or two a story has been printed in a few newspapers that the National Association of Manufacturers and the officials of the American Federation of Labor have come to an understanding, and that "sweet serenity" now prevails. The reason for the promulgation of this comic story does not appear on the surface. After the long, relentless and unjustifiable war carried on by the National Association of Manufacturers against the labor organizations of this country, it is difficult to conceive how a complete summersault could be taken by this delectable band. The National Association of Manufacturers, however, during the recent lobby investigation, suffered seriously and as a consequence its influence has been practically nullified. In its efforts to retrieve its former ground it could be plausible to suppose that stories of the kind mentioned might naturally spring from sources not difficult to determine. The Association started on its career for the purpose of destroying the organized labor movement, but it has made progress backward. Even with its tremendous influence prior to the lobby investigation it failed utterly to stop the progress and the growth of the labor organizations. The National Association of Manufacturers is still, even with its remaining slender influence, endeavoring to carry on its old practices, but it will be unable to delude the organized working people with any story that an understanding has been reached with the organized labor movement. Whenever the rights of the workers are recognized by any association, no matter what its character, an understanding can be reached, but otherwise the organized movement proposes to stand for the protection of all workmen against the unjust encroachments of any association of employers.

## STRIKE AVERTED FOR PRESENT.

Denison, Texas, Nov. 8.—The controversy between the Order of Railroad Telegraphers and the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad, which nearly resulted in a strike, has taken another turn and no drastic action will be taken for a time at least. A notice signed by the committee in charge of the Telegraphers' demands announces that conferences between the road and the Order of Railway Telegraphers are to be resumed next month with the understanding that those taken out of the service are to be reinstated.

## BUYS MORE BONDS.

Colorado Springs, Nov. 8.—The International Typographical Union has purchased $25,000 worth of Colorado Springs Water Refunding Bonds, these bonds having been purchased after an examination by the union's attorney of Indianapolis. The International Union has over $600,000 invested in gilt-edge securities throughout this country and Canada, the money being the reserve funds credited to the mortuary, pension, and general account of the organization. As is well known, the Union Printers' Home is located in this city.

## GOV. FOSS SUED.

Boston, Nov. 8.—A suit has been commenced against Gov. Foss asking $100,000 for alleged slander by a former President of the Boston Central Labor Union. The suit, it is said, is based on a statement, signed "E. N. Foss," which appeared recently in a Boston paper, in which the plaintiff was denounced for participation in a strike of the employes in factories controlled by the Governor.

## COPPER MINER AGE LIMIT.

Calumet, Nov. 8.—A "benevolent" practice, established by the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company, which is now fighting the Copper Miners' Union, is that no one over forty years of age will be employed, and if, for instance, any old employee having reached that age severs his connection with the company he will not be again re-employed.

## CASE ADVANCED.

Washington, Nove. 8.—The contempt cases against President Gompers, Vice President Mitchell, and Secretary Morrison have been advanced for hearing in the Supreme Court of the United States to the first Monday in January, 1914. The advancement of these cases was secured as a result of a petition recently filed by the attorneys for the American Federation of Labor.

## ENDS STRIKE HEARINGS.

Washington, Nov. 8.—The investigation into the conditions in the West Virginia coal strike district by a sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor has been brought to a close. At the conclusion of the hearing the committee agreed to permit Counsel, if they desired, to file briefs with it before December 1. It is the intention of the committee to frame its report to the Senate as soon as possible.

## BURLINGTON ARBITRATION.

Chicago, Nov. 8.—An arbitration board that will investigate and make an award in the controversy between the conductors and trainmen and the Burlington Railroad have taken up their work. As to the time required in the presenting of the evidence of both sides there seems to be no idea at present. The board will continue in session until all evidence is presented.

## INDIANAPOLIS CAR STRIKE.

Indianapolis, Nov. 8.—One of the unique incidents occurring in the traction strike in this city was that thirty patrolmen turned in their badges rather than ride on street cars and protect strike breakers. The Mayor defended a policeman who had been ordered to turn in his badge for refusing to board a car to aid strike breakers, the Mayor ordering the policeman to return to patrol duty. "I took this stand because I do not believe it is the duty of the policemen to run these cars. It is their duty to protect lives and property and not to operate or assist in operating cars of the street car company." The Mayor is reported as asserting that if charges are brought against policemen for refusing to ride on cars he would defend them before the trial board. While there are several hundred strike breakers in the car barns, yet the operation of the lines is practically at a standstill, and the organized traction men are confident that they will eventually be accorded the right to a hearing before the company in the adjustment of wages and other conditions.

## SHAKE.

Washington, Nov. 8.—An interesting incident has been brought to light with reference to one of Iowa's Congressmen. Hon. Sanford Kirkpatrick of Ottumwa, Iowa, Representative in Congress from the Sixth Iowa District, is extensively engaged in coal mining and agriculture in his home State and has considerable literary ability. He is the author of a volume entitled "Letters From Grandpa," and recently was negotiating with a publishing company in Baltimore to publish the book, but when about to sign the contract he learned that the publishing house was operating as a non-union establishment. Negotiations were immediately broken off, Mr. Kirkpatrick stating that the union label would appear on his book or it would not be published.

## UNION INFLUENCE.

Pittsburgh, Nov. 8.—The announcement that the scope of the present pension system for employes of the Westinghouse Air Brake Company will be widened to include the widows and children of employes has been made. A member of the firm stated that while the present system gives relief to men only, the new system will include the families after January 1. It is stated that the company has pledged the Association 5,000 shares of stock or $250,000 for the relief fund, which, with the present $110,000, makes a total of $360,000 for relief work. The interest in the welfare of the employes by employers in non-union establishments is but a reflection of the influence exerted by organized labor on industry.

## TO TEST ALASKAN COAL.

Seattle, Nov. 8.—A steamer is now on its way from San Francisco to Seattle to take on a large number of heavy draft horses and supplies to be landed at Knik, Cook Inlet, Alaska. The horses are to be used in hauling 300 tons of coal mined last summer in the Mataluska field by the United States Government expedition. This coal is to be tested by a man-of-war to determine its availability for naval purposes. It has been the understanding that the entire winter would be consumed in hauling out the coal, but the purchase of a large number of horses is taken to mean that the Government is to bring the coal out this fall.

## CLAY MAKERS STRIKE.

East Liverpool, O., Nov. 8.—Claymakers employed in the general ware potteries of East Liverpool and Wellsville, Ohio, and Chester and Newell, W. Va., have quit work, they having been refused an advance in wages. A number of plants are closed, and if the strike is not settled immediately all the potteries in the district will be compelled to shut down, effecting about 5,000. The Claymakers recently formed an independent union and are not affiliated with the National Brotherhood of Operative Potteries, whose officials recently signed a tentative scale for two years with the United States Potters' Association.

## STRIKE VOTE CARRIES.

Bloomington, Ill., Nov. 8.—The Shopmen's Federation on the Chicago and Alton Railway has just completed a series of conferences with the management of that road. The result, however, has been unsatisfactory, the demands of the workmen having been flatly refused, not even an offer of concessions having been made. A strike vote has been taken which shows that a very large per cent of the men involved are willing to take drastic action. The executive boards of the various International Unions involved have been notified of the action of their local union and the entire question is now up to these officials.

## HOUSTON IRON MOLDERS.

Houston, Tex., Nov. 8.—Although on strike, the Molders have practically all of their members at work and are getting a better rate of wages than formerly. Some of the foundrymen, through the National Foundrymen's Association, have endeavored to break the spirit of the strikers by importing professional strikebreakers. The Molders have been emphatic in declaring that a skilled craft, requiring four years apprenticeship, entailing hard labor, justly deserves $4 for nine hours. Correct.

## PLASTERS REJECT OFFER.

Houston, Tex., Nov. 8.—A controversy is on between the Operative Plasterers and the Employers over a new wage scale. The Plasterers are demanding $7 a day and the Employers refused to accede to this rate at the present time. The employers have endeavored to use sharp practice in dealing with the Plasterers' Union and for this reason a settlement has been delayed.

## A LARGE MEETING.

Washington, Nov. 8.—A large public meeting was held at the National Rifles Armory in this city for the purpose of communicating to the public the coal miners' strike situation in Colorado. A number of the officials of the United Mine Workers were present and delivered addresses.

## PRESSMEN STILL FIGHTING.

San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 8.—The strike of the Printing Pressmen and Feeders is still on, though conferences are in progress looking to a settlement. There appears a wide difference of opinion, but the Pressmen on strike feel confident of an ultimate victory.

## FIRST KEEL PLATES LAID.

Newport News, Va., Nov. 8.—The first plates of the keel of the Battleship Pennsylvania, which, when completed two years hence, will be the largest and most powerful fighting machine in the world, have been laid at the Newport News Ship Building and Dry Dock Company.

## PENNSY STATUTE EFFECTIVE.

Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 8.—Pennsylvania's new women's employment law went into effect on November 1, and the limit of hours of employment for women and girls will be fifty-four per week, except in the home and on the farm. The new law prohibits the employment of women or girls for more than six consecutive days and not more than ten hours in any one day. One of the features of the act is that forty-five minutes must be allowed for the midday meal and a rest period of the same length after continuous employment for six hours. Night employment is limited to telephone operators over eighteen years of age and to women employed as managers, superintendents, clerks, and stenographers. The Department of Labor and Industry is charged with the enforcement of this law. The effect will be to cause many changes in industrial and mercantile establishments. There is already a question as to its applicability to theatrical people and various classes of employes, which will have to be worked out agreeable to the advice of the Attorney General's Department or a final resort to the courts.

## COURTS SUPREME.

Buffalo, Nov. 8.—The right of a Supreme Court Justice to call out troops has been affirmed by the Court of Appeals. The decision was rendered in the case wherein Justice Brown called on the brigadier general of the state to put three regiments into action in the Buffalo street car strike last April. The treasurer of Erie County refused to pay them. The court ordered the treasurer to issue a certificate of indebtedness for the three days' service performed. The county attorney advised the board of supervisors and the county treasurer to refuse to pay the troops, stating he was of the opinion the military law under which pay was asked was unconstitutional, and that Justice Brown had no right to call out the soldiers. The case then went to the courts, and as indicated above, the Court of Appeals, the highest court in the state, has affirmed the former judgments and the county will now be required to pay the fiddler.

## CHARGES GRAFT.

San Francisco, Nov. 8.—Organized Labor, the official paper of the State and local Building Trades Councils of California, is out with a statement that graft is being practiced in this city. This statement is made because information in possession of the Building Trades Council was of such a character as to warrant one of its members to file charges against an inspector in the employ of the Board of Public Works. The charges are to the effect that the workmen employed on city contracts are not receiving the established wage designated by the charter of $3 per day. Evidence has been collected that contractors have been paying $2.50 and $2.75 per day instead of $3, demanded by the city charter. A hearing has been arranged and the entire matter will be brought to public view.

## RAILROAD WRECKS.

Washington, Nov. 8.—The wreck on the New Haven Railroad in which twenty-five persons were injured, near Westerly, R. I., was caused by a rail which broke in five places, according to the experts who examined the track. Two persons were killed and twenty were injured in a wreck on the Southern Railway, near Griffin, Ga. The engineer and fireman were caught under the engine when it turned over, and both were crushed to death. Seven passengers were seriously injured when a Burlington passenger train, running between Chicago and La Cross, Wis., struck a boulder, and a locomotive and five cars were derailed. The injured are all trainmen, and the entire train was hurled from the track and rolled down an embankment.

## PRINTERS' NEW SCALE.

Canton, Ohio, Nov. 8.—Members of Canton Typographical Union are now working under the new wage scale which recently went into effect, and which is in operation on all newspapers and in every job printing shop of any consequence in the city. The newspaper scale is an increase for linotype operators from $19.20 to $21 per week, and add men from $18 to $20 per week. Journeymen job printers are now receiving $19 per week, an increase of $1. Job foremen were increased from $21 to $22, and assistant foremen from $19 to $20. An agreement carrying this wage scale will continue for two years.

## WANTS AMENDMENT.

Washington, Nov. 8.—A resolution to amend the constitution so as to permit the President to veto any item in a bill sent to him by Congress and to approve the remainder of the bill, and also providing that in the future only a majority vote will be required in Congress to override the President's veto, has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Overman of North Carolina.

## APPEAL CASES ARGUED.

Chicago, Nov. 8.—Objections to the conviction of thirty of the thirty-three alleged dynamite plotters at Indianapolis has been laid before the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, accompanying the appeal of the men to have the verdicts set aside. No inforamtion is at hand to indicate when a decision will be reached.

## HATTERS' NEW SCALE.

Los Angeles, Cal., Nov. 8.—The union hatters announce that they have just concluded an agreement with their employers in this city covering a wage scale and bill of prices for the ensuing year. The new scale carries with it a moderate increase and a few minor changes in working conditions.

## WILL KEEP UP FIGHT.

Erie, Nov. 8.—International officials of the Metal Polishers' Union, recently in this city, asserted that it was proposed to continue the fight against the employers until success was achieved. This is the attitude being taken by all officials of the organization that are involved in the Erie fight.

## MAY RE-OPEN NAVY YARD.

Washington, Nov. 8.—It is rumored that the Navy Department is favorably considering the re-opening of the Pensacola Navy Yard. If this is done a large force of mechanics and machinists will be employed there for temporary repairs to naval vessels spending the winter months in Gulf waters.

## HAMS WITH UNION LABEL.

St. Louis, Nov. 8.—The Butchers' Union in this city announces that hams can now be purchased on the St. Louis market bearing the union label of that organization.

## AUDITOR SAYS NO.

Denver, Colo., Nov. 8.—The militia has been called out by the Governor to take a hand in the coal miners' strike now on in this state. The state treasury is bankrupt and no money available to pay for this extraordinary expense, but the mining companies, in order to unload their heavy expense in maintaining guards to beat the miners into submission, have at last been successful in influencing the Governor to comply with their wishes and put the state militia in the field. Roady Kennehan, former International Secretary-Treasurer of the Horseshoers' Union, is now State Auditor, and through his hands must pass all bills against the state. In order that money may be provided to meet the expense, it appears that arrangements have been made between the bankers, coal operators, and the Governor whereby certificates of indebtedness are to be issued and sold to the banks and operators for 94 cents on the dollar and bearing 6 per cent interest. Poor old Colorado! In a letter to the Governor in response to a request for his attitude on the prospective loan, Kennehan says (this request having been made prior to the actual issuance of the order calling out the militia): "Pursuant to your request to know my attitude on the issuance of certificates of indebtedness at this time, I desire to state that at this time there is nothing for me to pass upon. If any demand is made on me at any time in the future for the issuance of certificates of indebtedness I will at that time do that which the law requires me to do, namely, pass on the demand in accordance with the law. Under no circumstances would I issue any certificates of indebtedness unless the claim against the state was a legal and valid one. I do not want any of you gentlemen to go away from here with any ideas in your minds that I have made any promises as to what I will do. I must determine my duty when the question arises. My present judgment is that it is not proper at this time to call out the militia and thereby saddle upon the people of this state an enormous debt. I see no reason why Huerfano county should not take care of its own troubles as Boulder county has been doing for the past three years. My judgment is that the coal mine owners should be required to negotiate with their employes concerning a settlement of the strike. If this is done the strike would undoubtedly be settled in a short time."

## DEMANDS RAIL SAFETY.

Washington, Nov. 8.—Means of obtaining the highest degree of safety in railroad travel formed the keynote to the final proceedings of the annual convention of the National Association of Railway Commissioners. It was emphatically stated that the operation of the standard signaling system with the overlap would have prevented most of the recent accidents on the New Haven road. It was added that the human equation was a considerable factor in the operation of any sort of safety devices, and it was pointed out that many railroads had reduced the speed of their fast trains, thus increasing the safety of travel quite 50 per cent. The general consensus of opinion seemed to be that the reduction of excessive speed was an advantage not only to the public, but to the railroads as well, thus affording an impressive example of the folly of high-speed competition, it being a better policy to run trains behind time than to take chances of accidents.

## ENFORCING THE LAW.

St. Louis, Nov. 8.—For working female employes more than nine hours per day a large cleaning and dyeing company has been fined $25 and costs in ten cases, making a total of $378. The factory inspector favored the small fine because it was the first offense, together with the fact that the company promised to obey the law in the future. Another labor law that is causing changes in the foundries is the Molders' Sanitary Law, which applies to all foundries employing ten or more men, and calls for washrooms, lockers, hot and cold water, and other desirable improvements. The factory inspector announces that the necessary changes are under way and that no great difficulty is expected in securing compliance with every provision of the law.

## QUESTIONING CANDIDATES.

Bellingham, Wash., Nov. 8.—The Central Labor Union has been making a canvass of the various candidates for city offices, with particular reference to four questions. These questions have been printed and presented to the candidates for office with a request that they be answered, either in the negative or affirmative. The answers are being given wide publicity, in order that the union men and the public may know exactly where these candidates stand upon important municipal questions, thus giving the voter an opportunity to intelligently cast his ballot.

## CO-OPERATION.

Washington, Nov. 8.—The Federal Industrial Commission is making arrangements with the various bureaus and departments of the government that are engaged in research work whereby duplication can be avoided and mutual assistance rendered. There is a general desire on the part of the bureaus and departments to render whatever service they can to the industrial commission, and with this assistance the commission will be enabled to prosecute its work with method and celerity.

## CONFIRMED BY SENATE.

Washington, Nov. 8.—The Senate has confirmed the appointment of Frank McManamy as Chief Inspector of Locomotive Boilers. This confirmation was held up for some time, owing to the fact that the Boilermakers protested against the appointment of McManamy because he was a locomotive engineer, the boilermakers insisting that a member of their craft should receive the appointment because Boilermakers are employed in constructing locomotive boilers.

## SHOE WORKERS' NEW SCALE.

Cincinnati, Nov. 8.—Representatives of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union recently met with the Executive Committee of the Manufacturers' Association at the Boot and Leather Club and reached an agreement on a new price list to be paid in Cincinnati factories for the coming year. The price agreed upon means a substantial increase to the members of the union.

## TAXI DRIVERS STRIKE.

Philadelphia, Nov. 8.—Taxicab drivers to the number of about 400 are on strike in this city. The local union to which the Taxicab Drivers are affiliated recently demanded that the men be paid $2.50 per day instead of 25 per cent of their gross receipts. These demands were refused and the men went on strike.